

MINUTES OF THE HANOVER BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Roland convened the meeting of the Hanover Borough Council Public Safety Committee at 6:00 PM, Monday, August 2, 2021 in the Hanover Municipal Building, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA.

Attendance: Present were Committee Members Funk, Pranses, Roland and Mayor Whitman; Staff Members Manager Dunford, Secretary Felix, Public Works Director Grimm, and Police Chief Martin.

Public Comment: None was presented.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Mrs. Funk, seconded by Ms. Pranses to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021. Motion carried.

Public Forum & Presentation:

Chief Martin gave an overview of the Hanover Borough Police Department. There are 3 divisions: Administrative, Detective and Patrol. There are 4 full time Administrative employees; 3 employees in the Detective division with 1 Detective sergeant, 1 Detective, and 1 part-time Civilian Evidence Technician; and a total of 19 employees make up the Patrol division including 4 sergeants, and 15 officers, which are the backbone of the police department.

There are a total of 26 total personnel, with 23 sworn officers. There are 4 patrol squads comprising 4 shifts. 1 squad has 1 sergeant and 3 patrolmen; 3 squads have 1 sergeant and 4 patrolmen. The Department is currently down 3 officers which is an all-time low. There are 5 marked vehicles and 4 unmarked vehicles. A regional hiring consortium works with 10 other police departments in York County. 24 individuals will be on the certified eligibility list at the upcoming Civil Service Commission meeting.

Mr. Roland asked for suggestions for Council to assist. Chief Martin recommended trying to stay on top of what other municipalities are doing in relation to labor contracts. With the reduction in staff, overtime for officers is now mandated, in the past years it was voluntary. The overtime in 2020 amounted to approximately \$12,000.

When asked by Mr. Roland what the median age is in the department, Chief Martin responded 28-29. Chief Martin noted the Department faces additional challenges due to recent government mandates.

The Department works with the York County Drug Task Force. The York County DA's office conducts dedicated drug work throughout the County. A goal would be to have a 3rd detective in the future to assist the Task Force.

Officer Campo is working on the accreditation initiative for the department. They are ready for the mock assessment; the peer assessment has been completed. Chief Martin anticipates having the accreditation in place by the end of 2021 - beginning of 2022.

The evidence room has recently been purged.

In 2021 Part I & II crimes were down; drug arrests were up; Narcan use was down and traffic enforcement was on an increase.

The Community Policing Program has been implemented, with officers walking the neighborhoods; Chief Martin noted staying connected with the community is very important.

Chief Martin asked what Council would like to see in the future for the Police Department.

Chief Martin noted the following comparisons between Hanover Borough and Penn Township:

Hanover has an area of 3.7 square miles with a population of 15,609 in 2019, and had 11,466 service calls. Penn Township has 13.14 square miles and had 6,421 service calls in 2019.

The Borough has 1.537% officers per capita; and Penn Township has 1.389% officers per capita.

He noted costs have increased across the board, and Chief Martin has made the most out of the budgeted funds for the department.

Mr. Roland asked what technology may help. Chief Martin suggested purchasing scheduling software, noting that service carries an annual subscription of \$3,000.

Mr. Roland asked Chief Martin to come back to the committee with needs and wants that would increase productivity.

Chief Martin noted the department is not looking to grow but not take any further reductions. He asked for the replacement of the third detective and one patrolman to have 4 on each squad for uniform coverage of the Borough, and help reduce overtime costs. Chief Martin noted he would like to replace the part time crime scene investigator when he retires.

Ms. Pranses asked Chief Martin to comment how the 911 reduction in staffing affects their work. She praised Chief Martin for his community policing model.

Ms. Pranses asked about the replacement of the District Magistrate. Chief Martin responded that Thomas Reilly looks to be the full time magistrate through 2023.

Chairman Roland thanked Chief Martin for an informative report.

Chief Martin encouraged Council and Manager Dunford to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.

Citizen Comment: Mr. Philip Baum, 201 York Street asked if Hanover's drug problems are similar to other municipalities. Chief Martin responded that it is difficult to say, he continues to try to find resources. Mr. Baum suggested outreach programs. Chief Martin agreed, but stated the police cannot mandate treatment. Mr. Baum asked how many school officers were serving the School district. Chief Martin stated that they were not supplied by the Borough's Police Department, and he did not know the number assigned, but the School does have armed officers. Mr. Baum asked if the students meet the police officers, and Chief Martin responded affirmatively, as much as possible.

Mr. Baum asked Chief Martin what equipment needs replaced. Chief Martin noted the body cameras need replaced, since they were purchased in 2016, and they have a 3 year warranty. 10 tasers need replaced that were purchased in 2015 and have a 5 year warranty. The CRASH software also is in need of replacement. Chief Martin noted they were able to purchase the bulk of this equipment through funding from an anonymous donor.

Ms. Pranses suggested to incrementally phase in replacements. Chief Martin stated he has focused on "needs" rather than "wants" when preparing his budget.

The Committee thanked Chief Martin for his dedication and information.

Brake Retarder Restrictions: Public Works Director Grimm noted there was a recent complaint from a citizen in the 1300 block of Broadway about the noise from brake retarders. The brake retarders slow down the vehicle without placing wear and tear on the brakes; they are used by heavy vehicles, such as tractor trailers.

Mr. Grimm noted a traffic study is the first step in the process to implement restrictions. Gettysburg Borough and York New Salem have this restriction and ordinance in place. The Borough would need to pass an ordinance and PennDOT would need to approve as well. The Committee agreed this is a current problem within the Borough and an ordinance restricting brake retarders would be helpful in noise reduction.

It was moved by Mrs. Funk, seconded by Mayor Whitman to move the vote to pursue the effort to implement a brake retarder restriction and ordinance to the Council Workshop agenda for consideration. Motion carried.

St. Vincent's Request for No Parking on Third Street: Reverend Michael P. Reid, II was present to request a no parking zone in front of St. Vincent's property at 220 Third Street, Hanover. He presented a Pennsylvania State Police Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report to the Committee. Nine 20 foot parking spaces will be eliminated, but parking will remain available in front of the school so that residential neighbors may continue to have the ability to park there. Mr. Reid asked the Committee to accept the Pennsylvania State Police report to establish no parking in front of the church, rectory and former convent.

Public Works Director Grimm had no safety concerns.

Manager Dunford asked Reverend Reid to speak to the residential neighbors about the proposed changes, and he agreed he would do so.

The Committee thanked Reverend Reid for his attendance this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

George Street, heading north from Grant Drive: Public Works Director Grimm noted that lines were painted to deter speeding. He thanked Chief Martin for his assistance.

York Street/Walnut Street: Mayor Whitman received a letter from Dr. Singer noting the high volume of accidents at this location. Chief Martin stated he is in the process of completing a traffic study on this intersection; he will have it prepared for the next meeting.

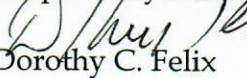
Wilson Avenue & Broadway: Mayor Whitman has received complaints of accidents when pulling out onto Broadway from the west side of Wilson Avenue. Public Works Director Grimm noted the trees on private property will be trimmed to improve site distance and a letter sent to the property owner to inform them of same.

Adjournment

Reverend Reid thanked the Committee for hearing the church's concerns, and moving ahead with the process to provide the no parking area in front of St. Vincent's.

It was moved by Ms. Pranses, seconded by Mrs. Funk to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorothy C. Felix
Borough Secretary